

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 H-02 /056 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7882

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON COFFEE PRICE INCREASES

REF: STATE 044078

1. IN AUSTRIA RETAIL PRICE INCREASES FOR COFFEE MUST BE APPROVED BY A WAGE-PRICE COMMISSION. SUCH APPROVAL WAS GIVEN FOR A 6.7 PERCENT PRICE HIKE IN OCT. 1974. SINCE THEN RETAIL PRICES FOR REPRESENTATIVE BRANDS HAVE REMAINED UNCHANGED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) GROUND COFFEE, VACUUM-PACKED IN BAGS (CANNING NOT PRACTICED IN AUSTRIA), AS 65 PER 1/2 KILOGRAM BAG, I.E., APPROX. \$3.20 PER LB;

(B) FREEZE-DRIED INSTANT COFFEE, AS 86 PER 200 GRAM JAR, I.E., APPROX. \$3.98 PER 6 OX JAR;

(C) SPRAY-DRIED INSTANT COFFEE, AS 59 PER 200 GRAM JAR, I.E., APPROX. \$2.73 PER 6 OZ JAR.

(D) BULK OF DOMESTIC SALES IS IN NON-GROUND COFFEE FOR GRINDING AS NEEDED. PRACTICALLY ALL INSTANT COFFEE IS IMPORTED FROM ABROAD.

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2. COFFEE INDUSTRY HAS APPLICATION PENDING WITH WAGE-PRICE

COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL TO MAKE ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE
OF 20 PERCENT IN COFFEE PRICES. THIS IS TO OFFSET PRICE HIKES
IN EXPORTING COUNTRIES FOLLOWING BRAZILIAN FREEZE, AND INCREASE
IN ROASTING, PACKING AND DISTRIBUTING COSTS. NO DATE HAS BEEN
SET FOR ACTION ON INDUSTRY REQUEST.

3. CONVERSION RATE USED IS US \$1.00 EQUALS AS 18.35.BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

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